

Ridge-to-Reef: American Samoa Pilot Study

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Objectives

- ☆ Identify a network of watersheds on the main islands that can be used for long term investigations of the effects of terrestrial land use and resource management on water quality, erosion, sedimentation, and point source pollution on coral reef biodiversity and health

Accomplishments

- ☆ Met with partners and stakeholders
- ☆ Visited sites on main island of Tutuila
- ☆ Identified incipient and established invasive trees (*Falcateria* and *Psidium*) that may affect forest succession and watershed function
- ☆ Identified potential research opportunities and collaborations for USGS

Significance

- ☆ Pollution, urban development, erosion, and habitat degradation from invasive species can impact watersheds and coral reefs
- ☆ Collaborators include USCRTF / Am.Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group, NPS, FWS, Am.Samoa Dept of Marine and Wildlife Resources, EPA, Am.Samoa Community College, Am.Samoa Dept of Commerce and Am.Samoa Dept of Health